

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Retiree Return to Work Information

April 2005

Overview

Governor Blagojevich signed Public Act 93-0320 on July 22, 2003. The act, which is a five-year program that expires on June 30, 2008, allows a TRS retiree to return to work without post-retirement employment limitations. The regional superintendent must designate the employment to be in a subject shortage area in order for a retiree to be able to return to work without limitation.

Eligibility

A retiree receiving an annuity may teach in a subject shortage area without compromising his or her retirement status if:

- The employment does not begin within the school year service was terminated.
- The retiree has not received the TRS early retirement incentive.
- The member retired before age 60 and with less than 34 years of service and the eligible employment does not begin within the year following the effective date of the retirement annuity.
- The member retired at age 60 or above or with 34 or more years of service and the eligible employment does not begin within the 90 days following the effective date of the retirement annuity.

Employment rights

Once hired, the retiree will be included in a collective bargaining unit and will comply with the laws governing the employment, regulation, certification, treatment, and conduct of teachers.

The retiree will participate in the group health benefits offered by the school district without limitations based on pre-existing conditions.

After the retiree stops teaching in a shortage area, the member should notify us that they have terminated employment and will be returning to health insurance coverage under the Teachers' Retirement Insurance Program (TRIP).

If the school district does not offer health insurance, the retiree will remain in the TRIP program.

No service credit

No employer or employee contributions can be made to TRS and no additional service credit can be earned when a retiree is hired to work in a subject shortage area. Employment will not affect the retiree's final average salary or the annuity amount.

Post-retirement limitations

The retiree who returns to work in a subject shortage area is not required to comply with the 120-days/600-hours post-retirement limitations specified in the Illinois Pension Code. The retiree will receive a pension although they are employed by a school district beyond the post-retirement employment limitations.

Regional Office of Education and school district certification procedure

1. The Regional Office of Education fills out a certification stating that the school district has a shortage area and the district met the public act requirements.
2. After meeting the requirements of the public act, we will provide the district with the Return to Teaching in Subject Shortage Area Employee Notification form to complete.

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When the district completes this form to certify the intent to hire a retiree under the program, it will require the retiree's Social Security number, hire date, health insurance status, and the subject the retiree will teach.

3. We will notify the retiree and school district that we received the certification form and acknowledge the hiring of the retiree under the program.

Questions

If you have questions, please contact the Member Services Department by calling (800) 877-7896 or via e-mail at members@trs.illinois.gov.